



**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

Nina Bell, Executive Director  
Northwest Environmental Advocates  
P.O. Box 12187  
Portland, OR 97212-0187

Dear Ms. Bell,

Thank you for your April 3, 2012 letter expressing the Northwest Environmental Advocates' concerns about the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) not honoring settlement commitments for the Oregon Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program and your May 2, 2012 letter questioning the federal agencies' interim finding as to the sufficiency of Oregon's agricultural programs.

Working with Oregon to achieve full approval of its Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program is a priority for NOAA and EPA. NOAA and EPA recognize that the implementation-ready (IR) TMDL effort is a new and complicated undertaking; it will take time to develop and interim milestones may need to be adjusted as the process unfolds. We also have expressed our concern to DEQ about the slipping deadlines.

The IR TMDL effort is designed to address agriculture management measures (MMs). The agencies plan to update the rationales in our final decision document to describe how the IR TMDLs will help implement Oregon's coastal nonpoint program, not just for the agricultural management measures (MMs), but for any MM affected by these IR TMDLs.

Both agencies will continue to work closely with DEQ to move its IR TMDL effort forward expeditiously and to enable the state to meet the other remaining conditions on its Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

Sincerely,

John King, Acting Deputy Director  
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource  
Management  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration

Michael Bussell, Director  
Office of Water and Watersheds  
Environmental Protection Agency,  
Region 10

cc: Dick Pedersen, Director, DEQ  
Bill Blosser, Chair, EQC  
Greg Aldrich, Acting Water Quality Division Administrator, DEQ  
Gene Foster, Watershed Management Manager, DEQ  
Patty Snow, Program Manager, Coastal Management Program, DLCD  
David Powers, Regional Manager for Forests and Rangelands, EPA R10  
Don Waye, EPA HQ  
Allison Castellan, Coastal Management Specialist, NOAA